

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

1-3 (CANCELLED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The latch mechanism as recited in claim +22 wherein said latch bolt includes a plurality of latch bolt laminations.

5. (ORIGINAL) The latch mechanism as recited in claim 4 wherein said plurality of latch bolt laminations combine to form a closed abutment surface, a first safety abutment surface for contact with said pawl of said latch mechanism, a retention surface for engagement with said striker associated with said latch mechanism and a latch pivot pin surface.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The latch mechanism as recited in claim +22 wherein said pawl includes a plurality of pawl laminations.

7. (ORIGINAL) The latch mechanism as recited in claim 6 wherein said plurality of pawl laminations combine to form an abutment surface for engagement with a closed abutment surface and first safety abutment surface of said latch bolt and a pawl pivot pin surface.

8-10. (CANCELLED)

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The latch mechanism as recited in claim +22 wherein said profile of one of said plurality of laminations includes a tab.

12. (ORIGINAL) The latch mechanism as recited in claim 11 wherein said tab is located on said latch bolt and is for engagement with a chassis of said latch mechanism.

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cont, 13. (ORIGINAL) The latch mechanism as recited in claim 11 wherein said tab is located on said pawl.

14. (CANCELLED)

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The latch mechanism as recited in claim ~~1~~22 wherein at least one of said plurality of laminations is non homogeneous such that a strength of said lamination as measured in a first direction is different from a strength of said lamination as measured in a second direction.

16. (ORIGINAL) The latch mechanism as recited in claim 15 wherein a first lamination and a second lamination are non homogeneous with a strength of each of said laminations as measured in a respective first direction being different from a strength of said laminations as measured in a respective second direction, said respective first directions of said first and second laminations being aligned.

17. (ORIGINAL) The latch mechanism as recited in claim 15 wherein a first lamination and a second lamination are non homogeneous with a strength of each of said laminations as measured in a respective first direction being different from a strength of said laminations as measured in a respective second direction, said respective first directions of said first and second laminations being misaligned.

18. (ORIGINAL) The latch mechanism as recited in claim 15 wherein said plurality of laminations are made from steel having a grain structure.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The latch mechanism as recited in claim ~~1~~22 wherein said plurality of laminations are at least partially over molded by a non structural plastics material.

C1 20. (ORIGINAL) The latch mechanism as recited in claim 19 wherein said plurality of partially over molded laminations are partially secured by said over molding.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The latch mechanism as recited in claim ~~1~~22 wherein each of said plurality of structural laminations are formed in one piece.

22. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A vehicle door latch mechanism for releasably retaining a door comprising:

a latch bolt having a closed condition capable of retaining a striker and an open condition capable of releasing said striker; and

a pawl releasably securing said latch bolt in said closed condition, and at least one of said latch bolt and said pawl is made from a plurality of structural laminations of material wherein a profile of one of said plurality of laminations is different from a profile of the other of said plurality of laminations.

C2 23. (NEW) The latch mechanism as recited in claim 22 wherein said profile of one of said plurality of laminations includes a tab having a tab profile and said profile of the other of said plurality of laminations has a local profile proximate to said tab profile, and said tab profile is different from said local profile.

24. (NEW) The latch mechanism as recited in claim 23 wherein said tab is located on said latch bolt and is for engagement with a chassis of said latch mechanism.

25. (NEW) The latch mechanism as recited in claim 23 wherein said tab is located on said pawl.

26. (NEW) The latch mechanism as recited in claim 22 wherein the other of said plurality of laminations does not include a tab.

- (2) 27. (NEW) The latch mechanism as recited in claim 22 wherein said profile of one of said plurality of laminations and said profile of the other of said plurality of laminations are external profiles.
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